(c) and (d) The Government of India through ICAR has been providing enough institutional support for the development of high yielding disease resistant varieties of wheat. Under the All India Coordinated Wheat Improvement Project nearly 40 wheat breeding centres covering almost all the wheat growing areas of the country are engaged in the wheat improvement work for the last 35 years. As a result of it, over 250 new wheat (T. aestivum, T.durum. T.dicoccum, Triticale) varieties have been developed and released in India till date. Due to high genetic yield potential and disease resistance of recently evolved new wheat varieties both total production as well as productivity of wheat has touched all time highest mark at national level. To energies and realise the potential of eastern and comparatively warmer parts of the country for further boosting the wheat production, a Mission Mode NATP Project on "Increasing Wheat Production and Building up Research Capabilities in the Warmer Areas and Eastern India" has been initiated by the Council. To accomplish this objective, the quality group of the Directorate has secured a NATP Project entitled "Quality Improvement of Bread and Durum Wheat" four centres namely, DWR (Lead Centre), Karnal, PAU, Ludhiana, GBPUA & T, Pant Nagar and RRS, IARI, Indore are already working to breed wheat varieties for chapatti, bread, biscuit and pasta products.

Drought assistance to A.P.

616. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has expressed unhappiness over Centre's lack of response to the drought situation in the State;

(b) whether inspite of the Central team's visit to the State, not even single rupee has been made available to drought affected areas;

(c) the recommendations made by the Central team; and

(d) the extent to which State Government was provided help and assistance and also to what extent "food for work" programme has been implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) This Ministry has no such information. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities.

(b) to (d) In response to the State Government's request for Central assistance in the wake of drought, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation and keeping in view the items and norms for relief expenditure and the balance available with the State Government in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), it was decided that, to begin with, funds from the CRF be utilised first and that the situation be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed. Thereafter the State Government requested for advance release of Central share of 2nd installment of CRF.

The entire Central share of CRF for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 155.97 crore has been released to the State for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. In addition, 6 lakh MTs of rice, free of cost, for Food for Work Programme and 2.45 lakh MTs of rice at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates have been allotted to the State.

Comprehensive agro management programmes

†617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims, objectives and role of comprehensive agro management and the type of assistance being provided to State Governments, in conformity with their action plans, purposes and targets;

(b) whether the regional preferences for identifying the areas under comprehensive management, with a view to clubbing all

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.